



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS



IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

GLYCERIN FOR DISGUIISING NAUSEOUS MEDICINES.—Lind says in the *West Virginia Medical Journal* that no substance is equal in power to glycerin in disguising nauseous medicines. Castor oil, turpentine, solutions of iron and various other medicines can be diluted and at the same time almost completely disguised by glycerin.

HICCOUGH.—H. D. King in the *New York Medical Journal* defines hiccough as an involuntary sudden contraction or descent of the diaphragm, whereby a vacuum is formed in the chest, into which outside air attempts to rush, but is denied entrance by the sudden closing of the glottis, the impact causing a characteristic sound.

SUGAR AS A HEART TONIC.—In the *British Medical Journal*, quoted in the *New York Medical Journal*, Dr. Goulston and Sir James Sawyer give very favorable reports regarding the effects of cane sugar in cases of dilatation of the heart in the aged. Sir James Sawyer has also prescribed sugar in wasting disorders, some forms of anæmia, adynamic rheumatism, and the neurasthenia of neurotic subjects with such excellent results as increase of weight, power, strength, and vigor, without the production of sudden excitement. The patient is advised to carry with him about half a pound of lump sugar daily and eat it from time to time except just before a meal. Sir James concludes his paper by saying that henceforward we must think of members of the sugar group as sustainers and developers of the heart musculature in failure of compensation and in a large variety of cardiovascular troubles. He advises obstetricians to prescribe it in cases of uterine atony and as a general tonic and food throughout pregnancy. Pure cane sugar should be used, a simple test for which is its luminosity when two lumps are rubbed together in the dark.

THE EYE OF SURGICAL NEEDLES.—J. L. Thomas describes in the *Lancet* a surgical needle which he has devised, in which the part played by the thread in the process of threading is absolutely passive, which is a reversal of the part taken by the thread in the ordinary course of

threading the needle. The eye possesses a side entrance with a spring grip.

PRESERVING RUBBER GLOVES.—Jerome M. Lynch, M.D., writing to the *Medical Record*, relates a method of keeping surgeons' rubber gloves, which he has found very satisfactory. A very large jar after being boiled was filled with sterile water, with formalin added in the proportion of 1 to 10,000. In this the gloves are immersed, after being boiled for 20 minutes. Two pairs kept in the solution for a year as an experiment were found to be sterile and perfect in texture at the end of that time.

A SIMPLE METHOD FOR THE RELIEF OF CERTAIN FORMS OF ODYN-PHAGA.—The *Medical Record* says: P. T. Hald, Copenhagen, calls attention to the observation of Mark Havell, of London, who found that firm pressure applied by the flat of the hands to the ears during swallowing, relieved the pain of sore throat. Hald found in addition to this method (tragus pressure), that firm pressure against the upper part of the mastoid, close to the insertion of the pinna, was also efficient.

INTESTINAL INTOXICATION.—The *New York Medical Journal* says: In cases of collapse in infants after intestinal intoxication, Wurtz recommends subcutaneous injections of camphor as being superior to saline infusion. All food is stopped for from twenty-four to seventy-two hours, and if collapse appears from 0.5 to 1 c.c. of a ten per cent. solution of camphor in olive oil injected, to be repeated every three hours if necessary.

COMMON FORMS OF DEAFNESS.—The *Medical Record*, quoting from the *Lancet*, says: W. H. Kelson states that these are due to impacted cerumen, furunculosis of the external auditory canal, a foreign body in the meatus, suppuration in the middle ear, chronic middle ear catarrh, otosclerosis, disease of the internal ear ducts, syphilis, malaria, gout, and other diseases tending to produce variations in the intralabyrinthine pressure.

STARNOOK AND WINDOW TENT.—S. A. Knopf describes in the *Medical Record* a new and practical device which will answer all purposes for outdoor life by day and by night. The starnook may be built on an extension at the rear of the house, but it may also rest on posts or columns, or triangular supports attached to the walls. The starnook consists of three walls composed of frames holding movable slats, of a roof, and a floor. It is all made of galvanized iron with the exception

of the floor, the window sash, and the roof frame. The wall of the house closes the fourth side, through which access is had to the starnook by a long window or a door. It is about 9 feet long, 6 feet deep, 6 feet high at the outer side, and 8 feet next to the house. It can also be made 8 feet deep, and will then hold a bed and couch or two beds. The roof can be completely raised against the wall of the house and an unobscured view of the sky can be had by the occupant of the bed. During the day the starnook can be transformed into a typical rest cure veranda. Three upper sections of the front shutters can be entirely opened, and with the two windows open and the roof up one is certainly out of doors.

AN END TO KEEPING THE PATIENT DRY AFTER A SUPRAPUBIC CYSTOSTOMY.—George Walker, M.D., in the *Johns Hopkins Bulletin*, says: The device consists of a pure gum rubber sheet, 1 yard square, with a round hole in the centre 6 to 8 inches in diameter. The material is similar to that used by dentists.

The sheet is laid on the patient immediately next to the skin so that the opening falls over the suprapubic wound. The usual amount of absorbent gauze is then laid on the wound, and the borders of the sheet are folded in, covering the gauze completely. The sheet with the enclosed gauze is held in place by an ordinary abdominal binder or scultatus bandage.

By this arrangement whenever the gauze becomes saturated the fluid drains into the dependent portion of the sheet, where it collects and allows almost no leakage for several hours, during which time the patient's bed and clothing are kept dry.

When properly adjusted the sheet is also of very material aid in protecting the clothing when the patient is in a wheel chair or walking about.

A large opening in the rubber is necessary in order to supply a sufficient absorptive surface for the gauze.

It is a good and safe rule to sojourn in every place as if you meant to spend your life there, never omitting an opportunity of doing a kindness, or speaking a true word, or making a friend.—*Ruskin*.